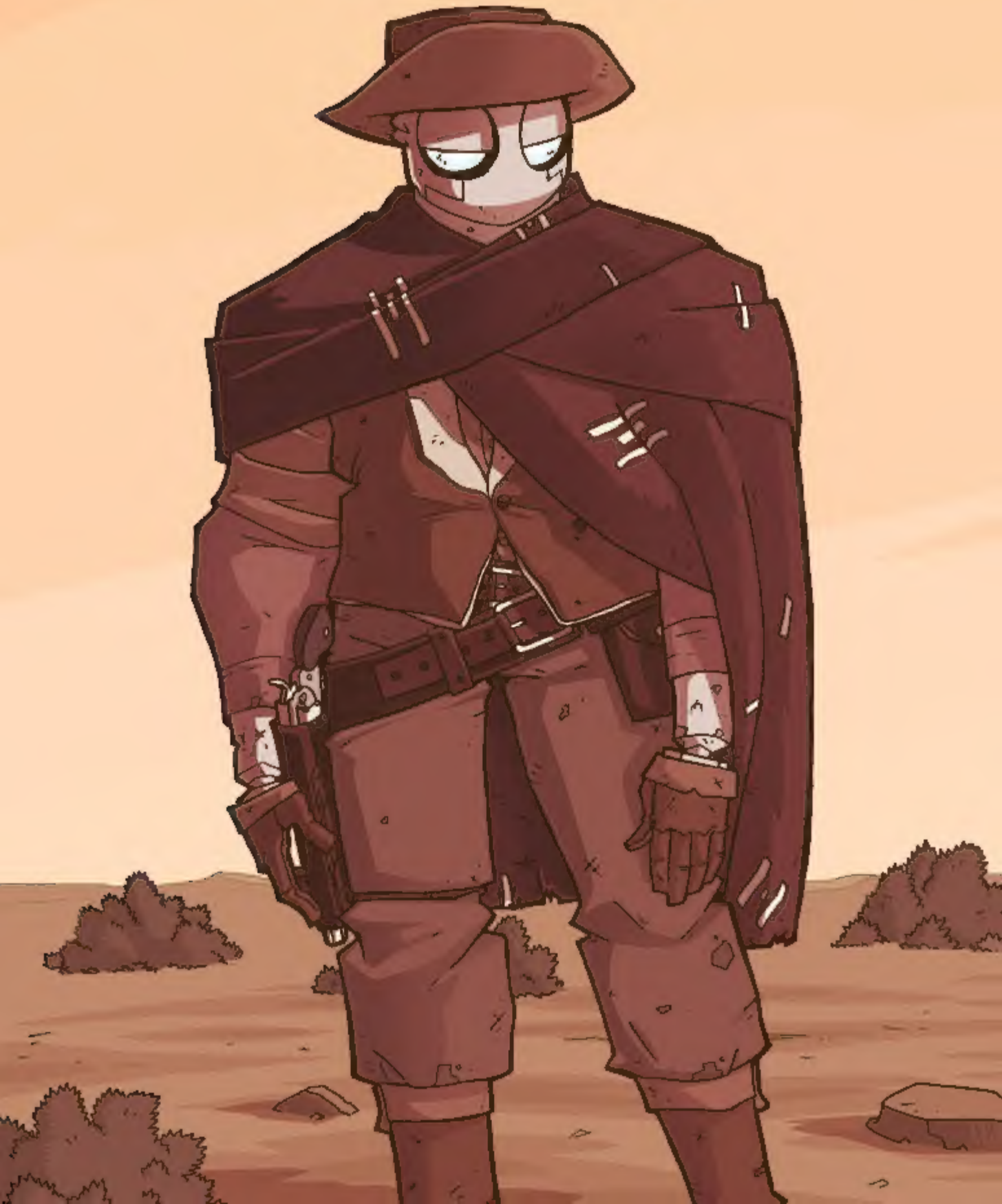
Knights of the Golden Circle
Chapter 1
The Butcher Boys



COLORADO, 1884

BANG

DO NOTHING UNLESS YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO

~~FEB 1885~~ BLAM
~~MAR 1885~~ BLAM
~~JUNE 1886~~
~~AUG 1884~~
~~APR 1885~~
~~JAN 1886~~
OCT/NOV 1884

?

BANG

C'MON.

THEY'LL KILL YOU TOO! YOU DON'T KNOW.

I *SEEN* THE FACTORIES.

YOU DON'T KNOW!

YOU WANNA LEAVE THE OUTFIT. AIN'T NO WAY TO DO THAT *ALIVE.*

WAY YOU'RE BLEEDIN', WON'T BE LONG NOW.

BUT MAKIN' US CHASE YOU HALFWAY ACROST THE STATE?

I WANT IT DONE *PERSONAL.*

KATHOOM

JUST LEAVE AND NO ONE GETS SHOT.

THAT CAIN'T BE...

S'POSED BE DEAD.

GONNA FIX THAT.

SOME TIME LATER...

DANG IT, LOCO!

BUTCHER! YIP YEEHAW! ***BUTCHER!***

WATCH WHERE YER GOIN'!

AHAHA. ***BUTCHER!***

WHY, ***LOCO.*** TO WHAT DO WE OWE THE HONOR?

BUTCHER. HEH. WE WAS ***BUSHWHACKED.*** AHAHA.

ARMORED FELLA. TOOK THE GUNNY WITH 'IM. AHEH.

ARMORED FELLA?

SHOOTIN'S AS GOOD AS ***SPITTIN'*** AT HIM.

IT'S THAT OL' IRONHIDE. EHEH. HE'S BACK!

DEAD MEN DO NOT COME BACK, LOCO.

LATER STILL...

ALAMOSA, COLORADO

ONE-EYED JACQUES

THE HELL *YOU* SMILIN' ABOUT?

QUITE A BIT MORE THAN *YOU,* I RECKON.

SEE HOW MUCH YER SMILIN' AFTER I SPLIT OPEN THAT CHEATER'S *BELLY* A' YOURN.

OH, *SON.*

YOU THINK I'D HAVE TO *CHEAT* TO GET THE BEST OF MUDSILLS LIKE *YOU?*

I SAYS YER A *CHEAT!*

I AM BEGINNING TO FEEL UNWELCOME AT YOUR TABLE.

HRM.

I DO NOT PLAY WHERE I AM UNWELCOME.

JOHN HENRY HOLLIDAY.

THAT'S THE RUMOR.

WANTED FOR *MURDER.*

YOU HAVE COME *MANY* A MILE ON ACCOUNT OF MERE SLANDER.

AND A WARRANT.

I'LL THANK YOU FOR HANDIN' OVER THEM IRONS.

SAVE ME THE TROUBLE OF *TAKING* 'EM.

AH!

RRRNCH

IS THIS TO BE AN *ARREST?*

YOU AS QUICK ON THE DRAW AS THEY SAY.

BAM

I NEED A DOCTOR!

MOVE!

OUTLAWS SHOT HIM.

I CHASED THEM OFF AND GOT HERE FAST AS I COULD.

HE'S DYING, GET A DOCTOR!

COUNTY DOC'S HALFWAY TO *WALSENBURG* BY NOW.

BE BACK THIS WAY NEXT TUES'DEE.

HOLLIDAY.

WARRANT

RAT DAMN SNAKE.

THOUGHT IRONHIDE WAS *DEAD.*

DYNAMITE IT WAS.

GUNNED DOWN, I HEARD.

HOLLIDAY. *YOU'RE* A DOCTOR.

PENNSYLVANIA DENTAL COLLEGE NEGLECTED TO INCLUDE *BULLET WOUNDS* IN ITS CURRICULUM.

REGRETFULLY.

MOUTH'S A HOLE.

BULLET'S A *TOOTH.*

I SHALL *IMPROVISE.*

I'LL NEED MY INSTRUMENTS. THEY'RE IN MY CASE.

THIRD ROOM ON THE LEFT UPSTAIRS.

WHISKEY AS WELL.

FRIEND OF YOURS?

DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS. I FOUND HIM LIKE THIS.

FOUND HIM. WHILE WALKING AROUND.

AT NIGHT. IN THE WILDERNESS.

IN ARMOR.

WERE GAWAIN AND GALAHAD BUSY?

TUMP

GLNK

GLNK GLNK

BLAM!

ONE-EYED JACQU

YOU GOT *TWO STRANGERS* IN THERE.

ONE OF THEM GOT A *HOLE* IN HIS GUT BIG ENOUGH TO DRIVE *CATTLE* THROUGH. HE'S DEAD NO MATTER *WHICH* WAY.

THE *OTHER* THOUGHT HE COULD TAKE ON THE *BUTCHER BOYS* AND LIVE.

DON'T MAKE *HIS* TROUBLE *YOURN.*

GIVE 'EM UP AND WE *LEAVE.* SIMPLE AS THAT.

DEVIL GRANT. BLOODY BILL JOHNSON. CACTUS EARL.

AIN'T SEE THEIR *PET,* LOCO.

BUTCHER CALDWELL'S MEN.

YOU CAN PICK 'EM, STRANGER, I'LL GIVE YA *THAT.*

SEEN WHAT HAPPENS TO FOLKS RUN AGAINST THE BUTCHER BOYS UP LEADVILLE WAY.

HOPE YOU BROUGHT ARMOR ENOUGH FOR THE WHOLE TOWN.

YOU'RE GOOD, GOD FEARIN' FOLK. *PEACEFUL* FOLK.

YOU GIVE US WHAT WE WANT. *WE LEAVE.*

NONE A' *YOU* HAS TO DIE.

I BROUGHT THIS HERE. IT'S NOT YOUR FIGHT. I'LL GO.

WON'T DO NO GOOD. ALAMOSA'S ON CALDWELL'S MAP NOW.

HE'LL BURN THIS TOWN, EVER' LAST SOUL IN IT, AND SALT THE EARTH AFTER.

ONLY WAY OUTTA THIS IS A FIGHT.

YOU GOT LAW ON YOUR SIDE. DEPUTY U.S. MARSHAL REEVES, FORT SMITH.

AND I SAY WE AIN'T THROWIN' *NO ONE* TO THEM DOGS.

LAST THING ALAMOSA NEEDS IS T'GET ON THE *WRONG* SIDE A' THEM BUTCHER BOYS.

TOO LATE.

THEY DON'T CALL HIM *BUTCHER* CALDWELL BECAUSE OF HIS CHARM.

I KNOW NONE A' YOU WANTS THIS FIGHT. I DON'T WANT IT NEITHER.

BUT AIN'T NOTHIN' FOR IT. FIGHT'S *HERE.* FACE IT NOW.

ELSE IT'LL FIND YOU. AND WON'T *NOBODY* HAVE YOUR BACK WHEN IT DOES.

I GOT *NO PART* IN THIS. I AIN'T EVEN *LIVE* HERE!

MISTER, WAIT.

OUT MY *DAMN* WAY.

THAT HIM?

HM.

TOO TALL, I'D SAY.

GAVE 'EM A *CHANCE.*

GUESS THEY NEED AN EXAMPLE.

BLAM

HRK.

THEY *SHOT 'IM!* THEY SHOT 'IM DEAD IN THE STREET!

GET IN HERE 'LESS YOU WANT BE *NEXT.*

I *BELIEVE* WHAT WE *SAID* WAS NO ONE DIES *IF* YOU GIVE UP THEM STRANGERS.

DON'T LET'S FIND OUT WHAT *ELSE* HAPPENS IF'N YOU *DON'T.*

NEVER SHOULD'VE COME HERE. NEVER SHOULD'VE INTERFERED.

ALL US HERE, WE OUTNUMBER BUTCHER'S BOYS BY A BIT.

BUT US *AND* THE BUTCHER BOYS, WE'D OUTNUMBER *Y'ALL* BY *MILES.*

GIVE 'EM WHAT THEY WANT NOW AND THEY'LL COME BACK *AGAIN* AND *AGAIN.*

UNTIL EVERY ONE A' YOU IS *DEAD IN THE STREET.*

WE HAVE *ONE* CHANCE TO GET OUT OF THIS ALIVE. *ALL* OF US.

I'LL DRAW THEIR FIRE OUT FRONT.

EVERYONE HEAD OUT BACK AND DON'T MAKE A SOUND.

I WON'T MAKE YOU FOLK FIGHT FOR A DEAD MAN YOU AIN'T EVEN KNOW.

BUTCHER'S MEN IS ALL OUT FRONT. DO AS HE SAY. GIT OUT BACK, STAY OUTTA SIGHT.

WHAT'S YER NAME, SON?

I, UH. THAT'S COMPLICATED.

YOU AIN'T THE FIRST MAN DIDN'T WANT ME TO KNOW HIS NAME.

BUT *IRONHIDE* WAS GUNNED DOWN. YEARS AGO.

STILL NO SIGN A'THAT LOCO...

WAIT, WHAT?

YOU HIS BOY? OUT FOR REVENGE?

JUST HANG ON.

YOU MEAN IRONHIDE WAS...

I'M IRONHIDE?

WHAT THE BUTCHER BOYS WANT WITH YOU?

I STOPPED THEM FROM KILLING HIM.

WHAT'S AN OLD TIMER TO THEM?

I DON'T KNOW. AND HE'S NOT TALKING

HOW HE LOOKING, HOLLIDAY?

NO CAVITIES.

DOC HOLLIDAY?

OTHERWISE, DYING.

MARSHALL? WE AWAIT YOUR SIGNAL.

CAN'T BE IN THE PAST. DON'T DO ANYTHING. PRESERVE THE TIMELINE.

SHOULDN'T INTERFERE. CAN'T INTERFERE. WHAT WAS I THINKING?

YOU SEEN ANYTHING AS ***STRANGE*** AS THAT ONE, MARSHAL?

IRONHIDE.

DID THE MATH. A HUNDRED TIMES. A HUNDRED **WAYS**. CAN'T BE HERE. CAN'T DO **ANYTHING**.

NO, IT'S FINE. **I'M** FINE.

OLD COLLEAGUE OF MINE. HE USED TO SAY, "WHEREVER YOU GO, THERE YOU ARE."

I THINK IT WORKS WITH **WHENEVER** TOO.

YOU NO GOOD TO US LOOPY.

EXCEPT FOR WHATEVER I ALWAYS **ALREADY** DID.

IRONHIDE.

CAN'T SAY THEY'RE IN ANY KIND OF HURRY.

SET FIRE TO THAT PILE A' STICKS AND THEY'LL COME OUT QUICKER'N JACKRABBITS.

NO NEED FOR THAT, BILLY.

YET.

HOW MANY Y'THINK IS IN THERE RIGHT NOW?

CAN'T BE THINKIN' IT'S WORTH COUNTIN', CAN YA? TOWN'S A ***WHISTLE-STOP.***

EVERY WARM BODY COUNTS. QUOTA'S GETTIN' HARDER 'N HARDER FOR BUTCHER TO MEET.

COULD SET UP A CREW HERE.

PRESENTABLE BUNCH. RUN THE TOWN FOR US. GRAB ANYONE STAYS OVERNIGHT.

ALWAYS GONNA BE MORE TRAINS.

KEEP THEIR ATTENTION ON YOU.

I'LL BE UPSTAIRS.

I NOTE I HAVE NO ROLE IN ALL OF THIS.

KEEP THAT MAN *BREATHIN'* IS WHAT YOU DO.

AND IF THEY RETALIATE?

WE DO THIS RIGHT, THEY WON'T GOT NO TIME TO.

OH, OF *COURSE.* NO DISASTER WOULD BE SO *RUDE* AS TO DERAIL A PLAN.

BLAM
BANG
YEEEEE-HAW!
BANG
POW
BLAM
THEIR DOG BROUGHT THEIR MASTER.
THEY GOT REINFORCEMENTS?
OH, IT'S MUCH WORSE THAN THAT.
YOU BROUGHT BUTCHER CALDWELL HIMSELF.
BUTCHER! THEY'S HOLED UP IN THE SALOON.
NOT TO WORRY, MR. GRANT.
WE BROUGHT DYNAMITE.
TO BE CONTINUED...

Knights of the Golden Circle

Issue 2

The Alamosa Massacre

ALAMOSA COLORADO, 1884

WHAT WE *WAITIN'* FOR? ALL'S WE NEED IS GUNNY KILLED. SET THE PLACE AFIRE, *HE'S DEAD.*

AND IF HE MAKES IT OUT?

WE SHOOT EVER' ONE COMES OUT THE DOOR.

MIGHT COULD GET AWAY, BILLY.

WHAT WITH TH' SMOKE, AND THE DARKNESS, 'N THE SCREAMIN' AND SUCH.

THE GUNNY AIN'T BUTCHER'S *ONLY* CONCERN. TOWN CAN BE OURS.

NO PROFIT IN PUTTIN' TORCHES TO IT.

HM. NOT SO MUCH THESE DAYS.

TNK

YOU LOOK AS BAD AS I FEEL.

I HAVE DONE ALL I AM ABLE. TO CONTINUE WOULD BE CRUEL.

AND I AM ONLY CRUEL AT *CARDS.*

HOLLIDAY. YOU STICK TO HIM 'TIL HIS DYIN' BREATH. MIGHT MAKE IT YET.

IRONHIDE. HOPE THAT SUIT A' YORN WORKS.

*UH. YEAH, IT'S **PRETTY** BULLETPROOF, MARSHAL.*

SOON AS YOU HEAR GUNFIRE, GET OUT THAT BACK DOOR.

KEEP TO THE DARK. KEEP QUIET.

DON'T DO ANYTHING.

EXCEPT FOR WHAT YOU WERE ALWAYS WILL HAVE DONE.

YOU JUST GET OUT THAT DOOR. DRAW THEIR FIRE.

GIVE ME CLEAR SHOTS FROM UP HERE.

IT'S NOT A PARADOX IF I WAS ALREADY PART OF THE PAST.

NEVER SEEN A BULLETPROOF GUNFIGHTER SCARED A' GUNFIGHTIN'.

CREAK

IRONHIDE.

CALDWELL.

YOU COMIN' *PEACEFUL* OR YOU GONNA LET THESE GOOD PEOPLE DIE?

FWMP

YARGH!

WAH?!

VASHT

VASHT
VA-VASHT

VASHT

BANG

BLAM

THE *OLD* IRONHIDE NEVER HAD NUTHIN' LIKE THAT.

AUGH!

POW

GOT MORE FIGHT IN 'EM THAN I EXPECTED!

THEY DO AT THAT, BUTCHER.

BLAM BLAM

POW

VASH

BANG BANG

BLAM BLAM

SHOULDA SET 'EM AFIRE LIKE I *SAID.*

'SPECT WE GOT TO *NOW.*

NOT IN THE *FACE.*

SPANG

SPOW

TWANG

IT'S... THEY...

...RECKONING.

SEAL OF THE K'S OF THE G.C. 185

POW

THIS IS *OUR* TOWN.

KEEP RIDING, DON'T COME BACK!

OH, WE'RE *LEAVIN'.*

AND WE'RE TAKIN' *YOU.* AND WE'RE TAKIN' GUNNY.

AND WE'RE TAKIN' THIS TOWN.

I CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT.

DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE OL' IRONHIDE'S BOY, HIS BROTHER, HIS PARTNER, OR *WHAT.*

DON'T *CARE* NEITHER. GONNA PEEL THAT ARMOR OFF YOU.

AND KILL YA. *SLOW,* I THINK.

YOU SO MUCH AS LIFT A FINGER? WE *START* KILLIN' AND WE DON'T *STOP* KILLIN' TILL THERE'S NOBODY LEFT.

AIN'T HAVIN' THAT.

BUTCHER!

BLAM

DAMMIT!

BLAM

PWANG

SPOW

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

PK

TWANG

CHK

THAT DONE IT. TORCHES. DYNAMITE.

FWEEEEET

FINALLY.

YIP YEEHAW!

YEEE!

HYAA!

NyEAAA

KONCH

YAAH!

OW.

HMPHF.

TONK

KRSH

FWSH

FWOOOOSH

HRM. JUST AS WELL YOU DIED.

SAVES YOU THE TROUBLE OF BURNIN' *ALIVE.*

MY SALOON!

JACQUES!

SHUT IT!

WELL, I'LL *BE.* AN AMBUSH?

NO! HEY! OVER HERE!

IRONHIDE!

FSSH

FSSS

FSS

FSS

FSSH

FSSH

FSS

FSSH

?

TMP

OH.

DOC!

KRAK!

GO LIMP.

FSS

BLAM

Whump

KA-THOOM!

HOURS LATER...

YOU ALIVE?

AGAINST ALL REASONING.

WHERE'S REEVES? WHERE'S EVERYONE?

AIN'T SEEN MARSHAL REEVES. BUTCHER'S CREW LIT OUT WITH THE REST.

THE SALOON!

REEVES!

JACQUES!

ANYONE!

C'MON, C'MON!

NOT NOW!

NOT YET. PLEASE.

IRONHIDE?

I'M FINE. IT'S OKAY. I'M FINE.

JUST NEED A BREATHER.

LORD HAVE MERCY...

HOW...?

GOT BLOWN CLEAR. LANDED ON A ROOF ACROST THE STREET.

SUPPOSE IF I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE RID OF YOU, I WOULDN'T NEED TO CHEAT AT CARDS.

HM. ROUNDED UP, LOOKS LIKE.

I COULD'VE DONE MORE. COULD'VE STOPPED THEM.

DO MORE NOW. WE FIND 'EM. BRING 'EM BACK.

NOW, WHAT TO DO WITH *YOU.*

WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN?

GOT YOU ON *MURDER* CHARGES, HOLLIDAY.

WON'T BE LEAVIN' MY SIGHT 'FORE YOU'RE BEHIND BARS

MURDER? MY. DO YOU HAVE A *WARRANT?*

GRACIOUS. YOU DON'T THINK IT WAS *LOST,* DO YOU? IN *THE FIRE?*

I DIDN'T THINK TO LOOK FOR PAPERWORK BEFORE THE EXPLOSION.

WHY, I BELIEVE JUDGE PARKER WOULD HAVE TO *TURN LOOSE* ANY MAN BROUGHT IN *WITHOUT* ONE.

LET ME SEE THAT COAT.

THIS IS *HARDLY* WHAT I'D TERM A *LEGAL* SEARCH.

SHUT UP, HOLLIDAY.

THEFT. FROM CARD SHARPIN'.

YOU GOT A GRIEVANCE, TAKE IT UP WITH JUDGE PARKER.

THE OLD FELLOW *GAVE* ME THESE ARTICLES WITH HIS DYING BREATH.

WITNESSES?

YOU TAKE THE WORD OF A DEAD MAN?

SOUNDS LIKE A "NO."

HANG ON. THIS BELONGED TO THE OLD MAN?

SOME KIND OF CANNON...?

A BIG CANNON. BELONGS ON A BATTLE-SHIP.

DO THEY HAVE THOSE YET?

*WHAT WOULD COWBOYS **A THOUSAND** MILES FROM THE OCEAN WANT WITH **NAVAL ARTILLERY?***

MARSHAL REEVES? I'D LIKE TO HANG ON TO THIS.

CAN'T A MAN AIN'T DEPUTIZED HOLD EVIDENCE. SO NOW YOU DEPUTIZED.

NEED ANOTHER PAIR OF EYES ON HOLLIDAY ANYHOW.

WE STRIKE OUT AT SUN UP.

GOT A FEW HOURS YET. GITCHU SOME REST.

WHUFF!

RISE AND SHINE.

OH, GOOD. I WAS AFRAID I MIGHT GET *SOME* SLEEP.

EAT AND MOUNT UP. TAKE YOUR TIME, BUT BE DONE IN *FIVE MINUTES.* LONG DAY AHEAD.

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DO *ANYTHING* IN THESE?

A *TRIAL* WOULD BE NICE!

SHOULDA THOUGHT OF THAT 'FORE YOU *KILLED* A MAN, HOLLIDAY.

YOU'LL GET ONE.

IF'N YOU *LIVE* LONG ENOUGH.

WAGON'S READY.

HOLLIDAY? Y'GOT *ONE* MINUTE.

WHERE ARE WE GOING EXACTLY?

DON'T KNOW YET. MAKE MY LIVIN' TRACKIN' MEN DON'T *WANT* BE TRACKED.

USUALLY 'GAINST A HEAD START OF A *MONTH* OR MORE.

CALDWELL HAD ONE *NIGHT.*

SO IT'LL BE EASY?

NOT EXACTLY *EASY.* AIN'T IN MY ELEMENT.

BACK HOME? COULD TELL YOU WHAT THEY NAME THEY *HORSES* BY NOW.

BUT CALDWELL THINKS WE'RE DEAD, SO HE AIN'T EVEN *TRYIN'* NOT TO BE FOUND. SO IT AIN'T HARD NEITHER.

WHY YOU ASKIN'?

I GOT A PLACE. IN THOSE WOODS.

FOUND THAT AMMO. GET WHAT ALL YOU NEEDED?

ALMOST.

IT'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WORKING ON FOR A FEW YEARS.

YOU RIDE IT.

THE *HELL* I DO.

WELL, NO, I RIDE IT.

YOU FROM BACK *EAST* OR SOMETHIN'?

MIGHT WE GET BACK ON *THE TRAIL?*

THE ALAMOSA VENDETTA RIDE

=KOFF=

REEVES KNOW YOU'RE OUT HERE?

WHAT THE MARSHAL DOES NOT KNOW CANNOT HURT ME.

YOUR SECRET'S SAFE WITH ME.

YOU'VE A FEW OF YOUR OWN, IT SEEMS. "IRONHIDE."

BUT BURYIN' SECRETS IS WHAT THE WEST IS FOR.

I AM NOT ONE TO PRY.

=KOFF=

KOFF HACK HUAG KOFF

PROBABLY SHOULDN'T SMOKE, DOC. OR DRINK.

ALL I HAVE LEFT ARE MY *SHOULDN'TS.*

ELSEWHERE...

I BROUGHT YOU TO THIS PROJECT FOR YOUR *GENIUS.*

IT IS WHY YOU WERE SPARED *THE PROCESS.*

YET YOU REPAY THIS HONOR WITH TREACHERY.

IT WAS WISE TO CHOOSE BUT A SINGLE ESCAPEE.

THOUGH ONE WONDERS: WHY MR. GUNTHER WAINWRIGHT?

WE DREW STRAWS.

OF COURSE. HOW DIPLOMATIC. HOW *AMERICAN.*

IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOME COMFORT, YES? TO IMAGINE YOUR SACRIFICE WORTHWHILE, SO LONG AS *ONE* OF YOU ESCAPED.

YOU TOILED FOR YEARS IMAGINING THAT YOU COULD ONE DAY STRIKE BACK. THAT YOU COULD STOP MY CONQUEST BEFORE IT BEGAN.

MR. WAINWRIGHT IS *DEAD.* HIS EVIDENCE WAS *DESTROYED.*

THE PROCESS WON'T KILL YOU, BUT WHAT YOU *ARE* WON'T SURVIVE IT.

THE HUMAN BRAIN IS A VAST COMPUTATIONAL MECHANISM.

AND YOURS WILL SERVE *HELSINGARD.*

TO BE CONTINUED...

Knights of the Golden Circle
Chapter 3
The Vendetta Ride

THE ALAMOSA VENDETTA RIDE, 1884

THIS IS WHAT, THE FOURTH OR FIFTH ONE?

OF WHAT?

GHOST TOWNS. THEY'RE ALL WE'VE SEEN SINCE ALAMOSA.

FCOD

INDIANS, OUTLAWS, HUNGER, FAMINE, DISEASE.

ALL KINDSA WAYS FOR A MAN TO DISAPPEAR THIS FAR OUT.

WATCHIN' HOLLIDAY DON'T MEAN TALKIN' TO HIM.

THEY BEEN THIS WAY. GOIN' MONTE VISTA.

MONTE VISTA, COLORADO

FEED HAY

MUSIC HALL

SEEMS LIKE THE WHOLE TOWN IS OUTLAWS.

THERE'S ONLY ENOUGH MARSHALS TO *PATROL* THE FRONTIER. COUNTIES GO WEEKS WITHOUT LAW. *MONTHS.*

ALL A GANG'S GOT TO DO IS STAY *JUST* AHEAD OF THAT PATROL.

GOOD FOLK KEEP HID.

NO ONE FIGHTS BACK?

ALAMOSA DID.

NOW THEY HERE. PRISONERS.

LOCKED UP ON A TRAIN.

SHIPPING THEM WHERE? AND WHY?

UP THE MOUNTAINS. SOME KIND WORK CAMP.

'SPECT WE'D FIND MANY A MISSIN' SOUL THERE.

FORCED LABOR? MAYBE TO BUILD THOSE CANNONS?

CAN'T SAY.

BUTCHER CALDWELL'S THE PINKERTON OF CRIME.

HOW IS HE **THAT** BIG IF I NEVER HEARD OF HIM?

I MEAN UNTIL I GOT HERE. UH. FROM WHERE I'M FROM.

BACK EAST.

WHAT FOLKS BACK EAST DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE WEST COULD REACH THE SKY. CALDWELL'S THE ***LEAST*** OF IT.

ALL WE GOT DO IS GET ON--

FWOOOOOOT

H'ALL ABOARRRD!

...THAT TRAIN WHAT'S ***LEAVIN'?***

I HAVE AN IDEA.

FWOOOOOOO

CHUGGA CHUGGA

LIGHTEST SHIPMENT WE DONE ALL YEAR.

AIN'T GONNA MEET QUOTA.

CAN'T ALL BE LEADVILLE.

WE ALREADY GOT EVERY GANG WORTH HALF A DAMN ON THIS.

HELSINGARD WANTS A QUOTA MET, HE SHOULD STOP MAKIN' IT BIGGER. HARDLY NOBODY LEFT TO ***BRING*** HIM.

CHUGGA CHUGGA

VRRMMM

VRRMMM

THE *HELL* WAS THAT?

TAKE SOME GUNS, FIND OUT.

C'MON, NOT YET.

SHOOT ANYTHIN' THAT MOVES IN THERE, Y'HEAR!

WHA--

SKRACKT

HEY!

CAN'T BE.

I'D RUN.

FAST.

START SHOOTIN' AND DON'T YOU STOP!

JOHNNY?

IRONHIDE! JUST SLOW 'IM UP.

I'MA GET THE DYNAMITE!

HE SAY IRONHIDE?

MILLER MUNIT

ARTILLERY FOR THE CANNON?

TRAIN'S PACKED WITH IT.

I GOT 'IM! I GOT 'IM!

SURE YOU DO.

BOOM

WAAH!

WHOOPS.

YOU MAKE A MOVE AND I'LL SHOOT!

YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO SHOOT THEN.

BLAM

HUH. GOOD REFLEXES.

POK

BANG

TOK

BOOM

BOOM

AUGH!

I'D FEEL BAD.

BOOM

BUT.

YOU'RE HUMAN TRAFFICKERS.

HRK.

HILLER MUNITIONS

BANG

BLAM

MILLER MUNITIONS

WAAAH!

BLAM

WHAT IF I SHOT **YOU** IN THE FACE?

IRONHIDE?

FSSS

FSSSS

FSSS

APPLESAUCE.

KRA-T HOOOM

OUCH.

KRASH

OUCH.

IRONHIDE? YOU COME FOR US?

OUCH.

ANYTHING LESS THAN *FULL STEAM* GETS YOU *KILLED.*

Y-YES, SIR, MR. BUTCHER, SIR.

IRONHIDE!

IRONHIDE! THAT YOU?

YEAH.

IS THIS EVERYONE?

YESSIR, THEY SHOVED EVER' ONE OF US IN HERE.

AIN'T LOOK SO GOOD, IRONHIDE. THEY GET YA?

IT'S NOTHING.

GOTTA CATCH MY BREATH.

OKAY. NEED YOU FOLKS TO STAND BACK.

SKRANK

WAIT HERE. IT'S NOT SAFE OUT THERE.

CAN'T BE HIM.

TELLIN' YOU WHAT I SEEN.

MAYBE THEY'S MORE THAN ONE IRONHIDE.

ABOUT T' BE ONE LESS.

WE'RE SPEEDIN' UP.

GOOD.

NO IT *AIN'T.* I'M ALREADY GIVIN' IT ALL SHE'LL TAKE. ONLY WAY T' GET FASTER IS *LOSING* WHAT WE GOT BEHIND US.

HE'S TAKIN' THE CARGO!

GET AFTER HIM AND DON'T COME BACK WITHOUT A *DEAD BODY.*

HIS OR *YOURS.*

UH. HEY.

CHUGGA CHUGGA

WELL. THAT THERE'S A FREEBIE.

CHUGGA CHUGGA

BANG BLAM BANG BLAM BANG BLAM BANG

OW! HEY, STOP OW!

BANG

SPAK

SPAK

SPOK

WHO THE HELL'S SHOOTIN' BACK?

THE CAVALRY.

BLAM

BLAMBLAM

CAN'T THIS MULE A' YOURN KEEP A STEADY PACE, MARSHAL?

DON'T BLAME THE HORSE FOR HOW YOU CAN'T SHOOT, HOLLIDAY.

KTUNK

THROW IT!

FSSS

KA-FOOOM

MISSED!

I'VE GOT **ANOTHER** PLAN. DON'T WORRY, IT'S BETTER THAN THE ONE THAT GOT US HERE.

ALSO IT'S **WORSE.**

IT'LL TAKE US ***MILES*** YET TO STOP AND THEN IT'S SLOW GOIN' IN REVERSE!

WASN'T ASKING FOR A PROFESSIONAL OPINION.

THEY HAD A ROUGH COUPLE DAYS, BUT THEY'LL GET BACK TO ALAMOSA JUST FINE IF WE GIVE THEM OUR WAGON.

OUR WAGON?

I HAVEN'T GOTTEN TO THE **WORSE** PART YET.

THEY *LONG* GONE, BUTCHER.

LOST HALF OUR SHELLS.

AND *ALL* OUR QUOTA.

WE BRING WHAT WE GOT.

FACT IS, MIGHT BE TIME I REMINDED HELSINGARD HE'S NOTHIN' WITHOUT US.

HELSINGARD?!

YOU CAN *HEAR* THEM?

NEVERMIND. THEY'RE LOADING UP.

GIVE 'EM A FEW MINUTES AND WE'LL MAKE OUR MOVE.

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

AIN'T NO PART OF THIS PLAN I LIKE.

NOT THE WORSE PART.

CHUGGA CHUGGA

VRMMM

NOT THIS EITHER.

HIDE WITH THE EXPLOSIVES.

MILLER

THE WORST PART!

I SHOULD TELL YOU GUYS SOMETHING.

WHY? BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOIN'?

OR WHAT'LL BE THERE?

OR IF WE'LL COME OUT OF IT ALIVE?

I WAS GONNA SAY BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN RIDING TOGETHER FOR A WHILE NOW.

BUT YEAH, THAT STUFF TOO.

I'M NOT WHO YOU THINK I AM.

HELL, I'M NOT **WHAT** YOU THINK I AM.

A MAN AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT HIS DEEDS.

WELL, THAT'S...OKAY THEN.

BUT YOU NEED TO KNOW I'M **DYING.**

HAH. THAT ALL? I BEEN DYIN' FOR YEARS.

YEAH, BUT **I'VE** GOT ANOTHER WEEK. **DAYS,** THE WAY I'VE BEEN GOING LATELY.

AIN'T NOBODY KNOW THE DAY OR THE HOUR, IRONHIDE.

IT'S **COMPLICATED.** JUST...WHEN THIS IS OVER, TAKE ME TO MY HIDEOUT.

YOU'LL FIND INSTRUCTIONS IN THE OFFICE UPSTAIRS.

I DON'T...

I DON'T HAVE ANYONE ELSE.

WE'LL TAKE YOU, IRONHIDE. YOU'LL LEAD THE WAY.

END OF THE LINE

FWOOOOOOOOT

PSHH

HATE THESE THINGS.

BETTER THEM THAN US, I SAY.

YOU BOYS KEEP AN EYE ON THESE BRUTES.

I GOTTA TELL HELSINGARD HOW IT IS.

MILLER MUNITIONS

HERR CALDWELL. THERE WAS SOME TROUBLE WITH TODAY'S SHIPMENT, YES?

I BEEN THINKIN' ABOUT YOUR MAP HERE.

IT IS WELL THAT YOU DO. THE MAP IS EVERYTHING.

AND IT ALL BEGINS ***WITH MY MEN.***

YOUR "KNIGHTS OF THE GOLDEN CIRCLE," YES.

MY FATHER AND I FORGED THAT RABBLE OF HORSE THIEVES AND TRAITORS INTO AN ***ARMY.***

AN ARMY THAT'LL GIVE YOU THE ***WORLD.***

BUT ALL I GET IS THIS RIGHT ***HERE.***

IT'S CURIOUS HOW YOU THINK YOU HAVE ANY ROOM TO NEGOTIATE AFTER YOUR LATEST FAILURE TO MEET MY TERMS.

I ***ALREADY*** RULE THIS RIGHT HERE.

THIS MAP A' YOURS IS JUST A ***FANTASY*** WITHOUT MY ***MEN.***

WE HAD A *DEAL!*

WE *DID,* HERR CALDWELL.

PERHAPS YOU RECALL THE *MANY* TIMES YOU FAILED TO UPHOLD *YOUR* PART OF IT?

WE HAD A DEAL!!

INDEED. IT IS A SHAME YOU WERE UNABLE TO ABIDE BY ITS TERMS.

THEREFORE WE MUST NEGOTIATE *NEW* TERMS.

YOU AND YOUR MEN SERVED ME WELL, *ONCE.* NOW YOU WILL DO SO *AGAIN.*

WE GOT GOLD! AN ARMY! AN EMPIRE! IT'S YOURS!

YES. I KNOW.

SHNK

TO BE CONTINUED...

Knights of the Golden Circle
Chapter 4
The Empire of Iron

CRESTONE PEAK, 1884

WAR ZEPPELIN BASILISK

BROADCAST THE ORDER. WE LAUNCH *TONIGHT.*

HELSINGARD

MEANWHILE...

KTONK

KTONK

THE HELL *HAPPENED* TO THOSE PEOPLE?

THEY AREN'T PEOPLE. NOT ANYMORE.

AND JUDGING BY THE SCALE OF THIS PLACE, I'D SAY THERE'S MORE OF THEM. **A LOT** MORE. THOUSANDS.

SEE? **UNCHECKED** WESTERN EXPANSION. **HUGE** POPULATION WITH **NO** ROOTS SCATTERED ACROSS A **MILLION** SQUARE MILES.

COULD BE **TENS** OF THOUSANDS OF THESE THINGS BY NOW.

HE'S BEEN HARVESTING BODIES. FOR YEARS. MAYBE **DECADES.**

LOTS OF WAYS TO DISAPPEAR. YOU SAID THAT, DOC. I THINK CALDWELL'S A **BIG** ONE.

BUTCHER CALDWELL GOT HIS FINGERS IN EVERYTHING. STARTED WITH HIS PA.

CALDWELL?

BUT THEN NEITHER SHOULD I.

BARON HEINRICH VON HELSINGARD. WHICH IS **IMPOSSIBLE.**

HE SHOULDN'T EVEN **BE** HERE.

EXCEPT....MAYBE HE **WAS** ALWAYS HERE AND I JUST NEVER **KNEW** ABOUT IT UNTIL I GOT HERE TOO?

THAT'S AN ADVANTAGE, MAYBE. THERE'S NO RECORD OF THIS. SO **WHATEVER** HAPPENS, WE WIN. WE JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN OR HOW.

I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT YOU GUYS TO GUARANTEE YOU'LL LIVE. SORRY.

I ALMOST DEFINITELY WON'T, THOUGH.

NONE A' THAT SOUND LIKE MUCH OF AN ADVANTAGE TO ME.

OH. YEAH. IT'S NOT.

I MEAN, **IT IS.** JUST NOT TO US PERSONALLY.

BUT IN THE **WIDER** SENSE OF THE INTEGRITY OF SPACETIME? IT'S A **HUGE** RELIEF.

TAKIN' YOUR WORD ON THAT ONE, I SUPPOSE.

HELSINGARD'S GOT A SECRET ARMY OF AUTOMATIC SOLDIERS AND HE'S EQUIPPING THEM WITH SIEGE WEAPONS.

HE'S **INVADING** THE UNITED STATES FROM THE **INSIDE.**

WE'RE GONNA MAKE SURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.

WELL. I'VE GOT TWO GUNS.

MARSHAL REEVES HAS A BADGE.

I DO NOT FAVOR OUR CHANCES.

ARTILLERY ENOUGH IN HERE TO WAGE A WAR.

ALL WE GOT T' DO IS BRING IT DOWN ON *THEM.*

OH. IS THAT ALL?

IT'S USUALLY HOW THESE THINGS GO.

DO THIS KIND OF WORK OFTEN, DO YOU?

KTONK

NNNRR

HOLD STILL. IF WE'RE LUCKY, THESE ARE ONLY DRONES. THEY SHOULDN'T EVEN **SEE** US.

WHAT THE DEVIL...?

TAKKA-TIKKA-TAKKA

IMPOSSIBLE.

STOWAWAYS, MOST LIKE. THIEVES POSSIBLY.

DEAD MEN, REGARDLESS.

TAK TIK TAK

UTPUT / CMD: H1 / THREAT : STOR / CONTAIN / LETHAL

KTONK

KTONK

KTONK

CH-CH-CHAK

SO MUCH FOR LUCK.

COUNT OF THREE?

WHIIIIIIIRRR

YOU WAS GONNA HAVE ME CHARGE OUT ALONE.

YUP.

S'FINE. I'D DONE THE SAME TO YOU.

TAK

VIP

VIP

VIP

VIP

PICK ON SOMEONE YOUR OWN SIZE!

UM.

FIGURATIVELY.

KTUNG

TAT terp tut pfeh

RUNNIN' OUT OF TIME...

I AM BEGINNING TO THINK OUR IRONHIDE IS NO ORDINARY MAN.

I CAN HANDLE THESE.

POOM POOM POOM

KTUNG

GO! I'LL CATCH UP!

KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOIN'?

WRANG

HAVEN'T THE FAINTEST, BUT THERE'S *LIGHT* UP AHEAD.

DON'T START WHAT Y'CAN'T FINISH!

RATTAT TATTAT

MORE COMIN'!

WAIT, WHAT?

HEY!

IRONHIDE!

TRUST THE MAN TO KNOW HIS LIMITS.

I GOT 'EM. KEEP GOING!

TONG

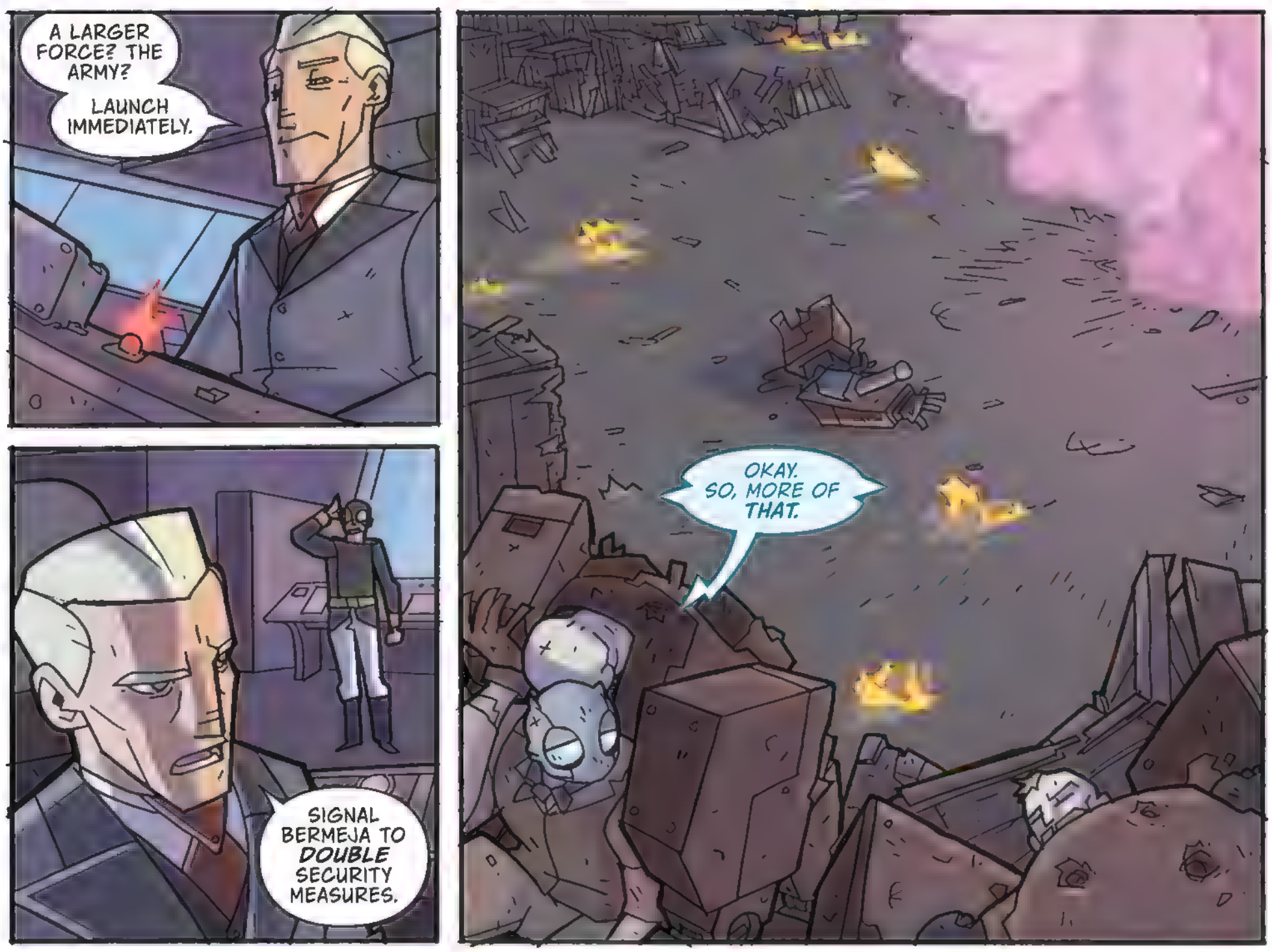
WRANG

HANG

VRILLIUM

VRIL? I KNOW HOW THIS GOES.

KNOCKHOUN
BLAM
AIN'T NO MAN COULD LIVE THROUGH THAT.
THEN IT'S BEST WE KEPT MOVING.


A LARGER FORCE? THE ARMY?
LAUNCH IMMEDIATELY.
SIGNAL BERMEJA TO DOUBLE SECURITY MEASURES.
OKAY. SO, MORE OF THAT.

WHOSOEVER DARES TO INVADE MY FACILITY WILL *BURN* IN IT.

PREPARE A BARRAGE.

TOLD YOU WE WEREN'T LOST.

GOT ANY KINDA CLUE WHERE WE'RE GOIN'?

NOT AS SUCH. BUT THERE'S LIGHT UP AHEAD.

YOU FIRST THIS TIME.

MARSHAL? WHAT IS IT?

A BEHEMOTH. AN *IRON BEHEMOTH.*

MUST BE HOW THIS HELSINGARD FELLOW'S GONNA MOVE HIS ARMY AROUND.

YOU AIN'T SEEM TOO SHOOK UP.

I ASSURE YOU, IT IS ONLY BECAUSE THE SIGHT OF THOSE MACHINE MEN WILL ECLIPSE ALL OTHER HORRORS FOR THE REST OF MY DAYS.

BREH BREH

BRRMMMMMMMM

IT'S MOVIN'. WE GOTTA GET ABOARD.

WHERE'D *YOU* FIND A SENSE OF HUMOR?

AIN'T JOKIN'.

OKAY. HOW?

FIND OUT WHEN WE GET THERE.

KRAKTHOOOM

DIDN'T KNOW YOU CARED.

ONLY GET *HALF* BOUNTY FOR A DEAD MAN.

KRAKTHOOM

BRMM

AN AIRSHIP?!

YOU ALMOST FALLIN' GIMME ME A PLAN, HOLLIDAY.

I ALREADY DON'T LIKE IT!

HONESTLY, WHY AM I EVEN SURPRISED?

THIS IS NOT A PLAN!

AIN'T TOO FOND OF IT NEITHER.

AHHHH!

HHHHHH!

COME ABOUT. *FULL* BROADSIDE.

HAIL, HELSINGARD!

KABOOMBOOMBOOM

KRAKTHOOOM

KABOOM

THIS IS NO WAY TO TURN ME IN *ALIVE!*

CHOCTAW SAY A MAN CAN'T DIE TILL HIS TIME.

SAY IT MAKES 'EM *UNKILLABLE.*

EVERYONE *IS* UNTIL *THEY DIE!*

THEN THE CHOCTAW'S RIGHT.

YOU... THAT...

I SHOULD NOT HAVE LOST THIS ARGUMENT.

HEY!

WANNA HELP ME STOP THIS THING?

KREE

CLEAR.

GOT ANY IDEAS?

JUST ONE. YOU GUYS CATCH ANY OF THAT PURPLE FIRE?

TOO MUCH OF IT.

THAT WAS VRILLIUM. I'M GUESSING IT'S DERIVED FROM HOLLOW EARTH CRYSTALS.

PLEASE DON'T ASK ABOUT HOLLOW EARTH CRYSTALS.

ANYWAY, IT'S LIKE DYNAMITE'S BIGGER, ***ANGRIER*** BROTHER.

HELSINGARD MUST BE USING IT FOR FUEL. PROBABLY A ***LOT*** OF IT.

AND, BEST OF ALL, IT'S ***HIGHLY UNSTABLE.***

YOURS IS NOT A PLAN THAT INSPIRES CONFIDENCE.

TRUST ME. BLOWING UP THINGS LIKE THIS IS ***ALWAYS*** FOR THE BEST.

IT'S THE ***EPILOGUE*** THAT CONCERNS ME. HOW WILL WE GET ***DOWN?***

HOLLIDAY'S THE ONLY GUN-FIGHTER I EVER MET EXPECTS TO LIVE FOREVER.

THE THREAD OF MY LIFE IS SHORT ENOUGH, MARSHAL. I SHOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW IT TO ITS ***NATURAL*** END.

!!!

HRRNN

IT'S IT'S--

DEVIL GRANT?!

HRNNN

BUTCHER DONE THIS TO HIS *OWN* MEN?

KRANK

WRANG

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

KTONG

HRNN!

PANG

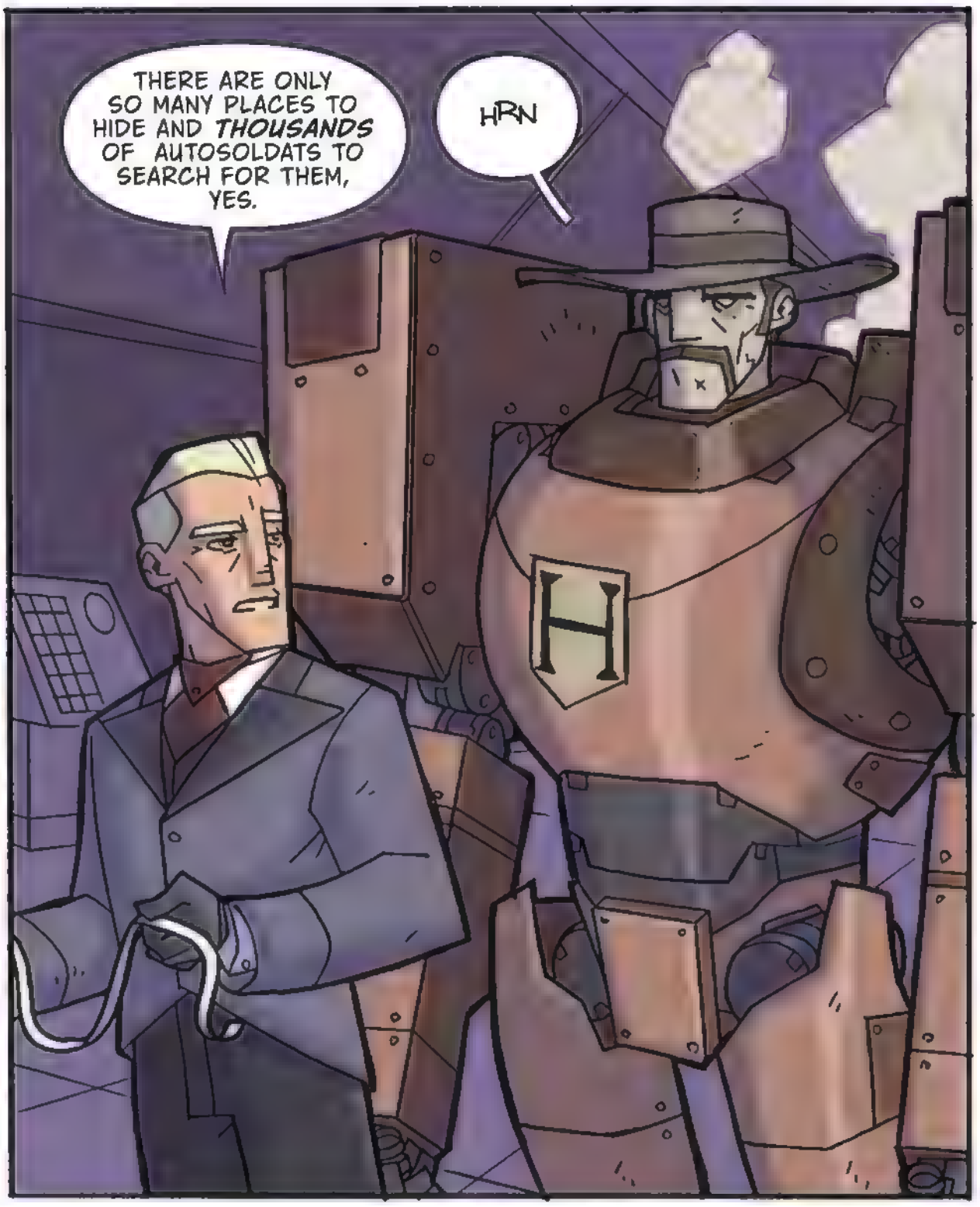
DING

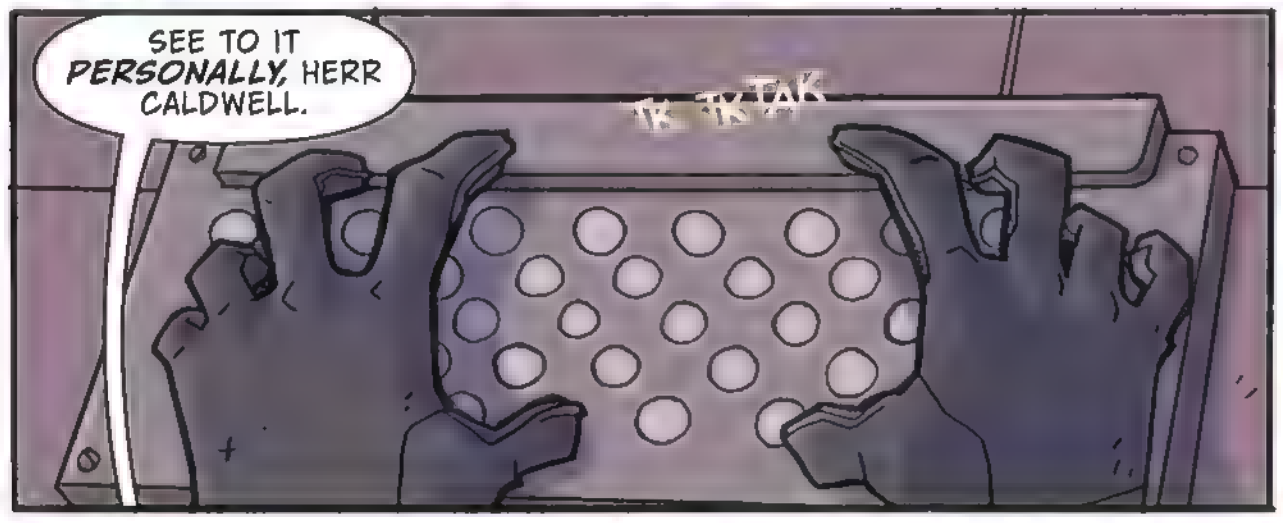
POW

GUYS? I THINK WE NEED TO SPLIT UP.

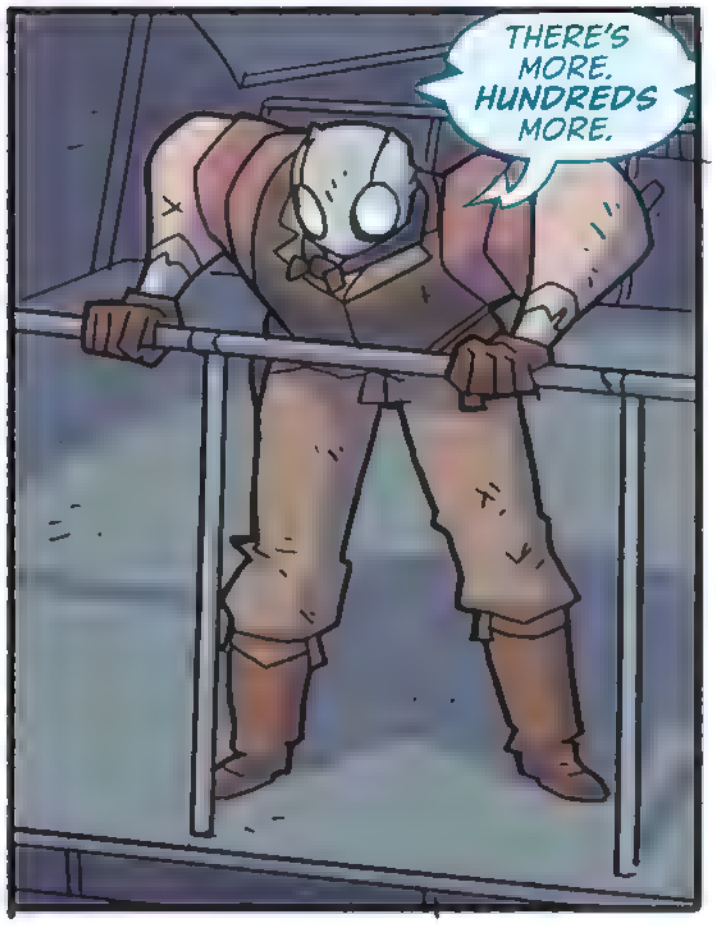
H

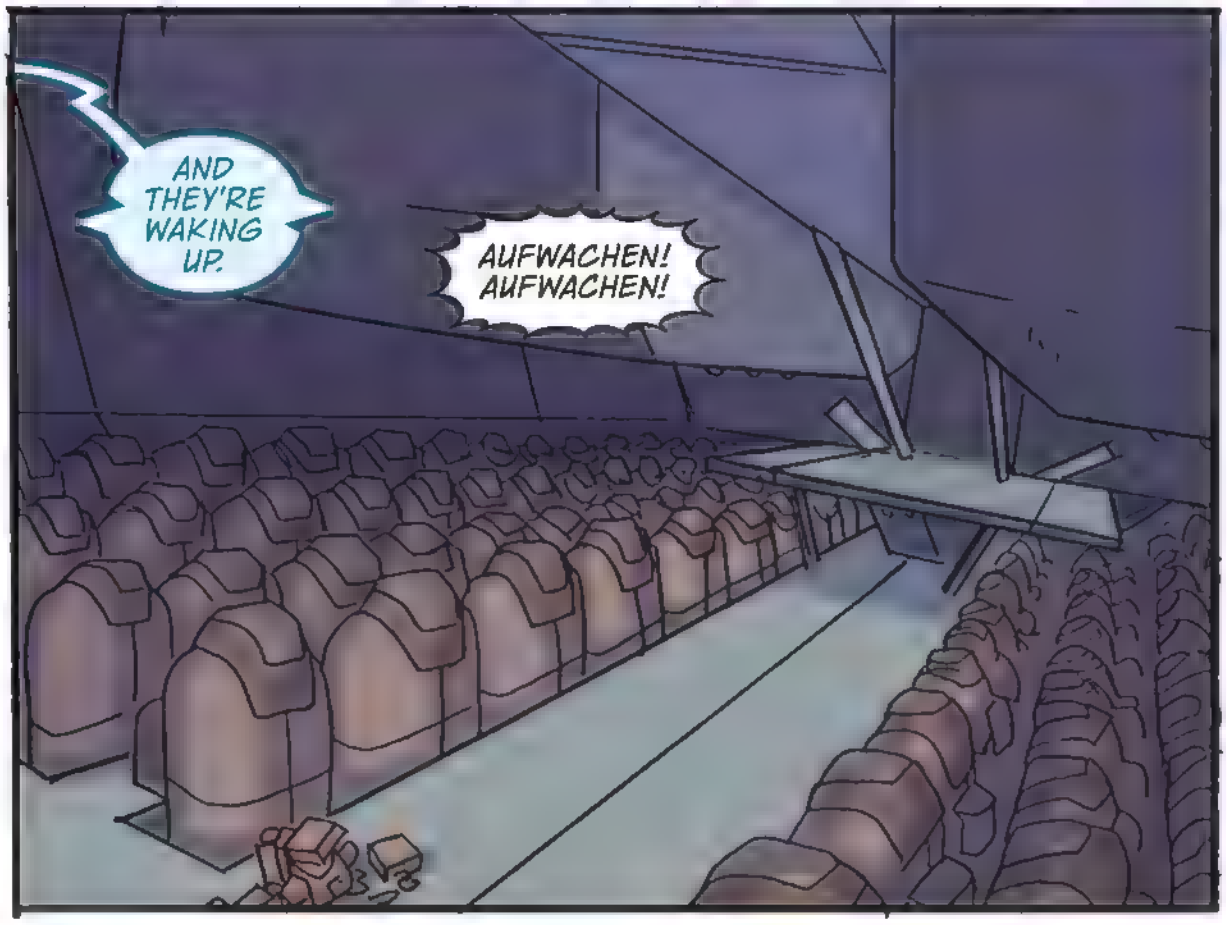
PERSISTENT.
BUT DOOMED.


THERE ARE ONLY SO MANY PLACES TO HIDE AND THOUSANDS OF AUTOSOLDATS TO SEARCH FOR THEM, YES.
HRN
H


SEE TO IT PERSONALLY, HERR CALDWELL.
TAK TAK TAK

HRN


THERE'S MORE. HUNDREDS MORE.


AND THEY'RE WAKING UP.
AUFWACHEN! AUFWACHEN!

FSSSS

HRN

AND THEY'LL BE LOOKING FOR US.

FIND AN ENGINE ROOM. I'LL KEEP THEM BUSY.

HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO *DO* THAT?

ONE AT A TIME.

FWAM

KTONG

KTANG

GUESS IT TOOK A FEW ITERATIONS TO MAKE YOU GUYS **FAST**, HUH?

KLANG

OH, C'MON.

DON'T GIVE OUT ON ME.

NOT YET.

KNOW WHERE WE GOIN'?

WHY START NOW?

THESE APPEAR TO BE WHAT REMAINS OF THE BUTCHER BOYS.

DIDN'T THINK THEY COULD GET ANY UGLIER.

NOT YET.

JUST NOT YET...

TO BE CONCLUDED.

Knights of the Golden Circle
Chapter 5
The Long Way Home

WAR ZEPPELIN BASILISK

THEY SLOW. I'LL RUSH 'EM. YOU SHOOT 'EM.

YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

NOPE.

THEN WE ARE IN AGREEMENT.

SHOOT!

HOLLIDAY!

SHOOT!

HOLLIDAY!

SORRY, MARSHAL.

BLAM BLAM BLAM

NOT.

DEAD.

YET.

KLONG

AND I WON'T GO QUIET.

KLONG

SCRUNCH

WRANG

TAKE YOUR SWEET TIME.

WOULD YOU RATHER I'D SHOOT HAPHAZARDLY?

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

SPOWNG

POING

SPOW

BLAM

ZKRRRZ

PYEH

FIGURED YOU COULDN'T RESIST.

YOU *WOUND* ME, MARSHAL.

MAYBE. WON'T GIVE YOU THE CHANCE TO RETURN THE FAVOR.

THAT IT?

BOOM

OW.

HRNN

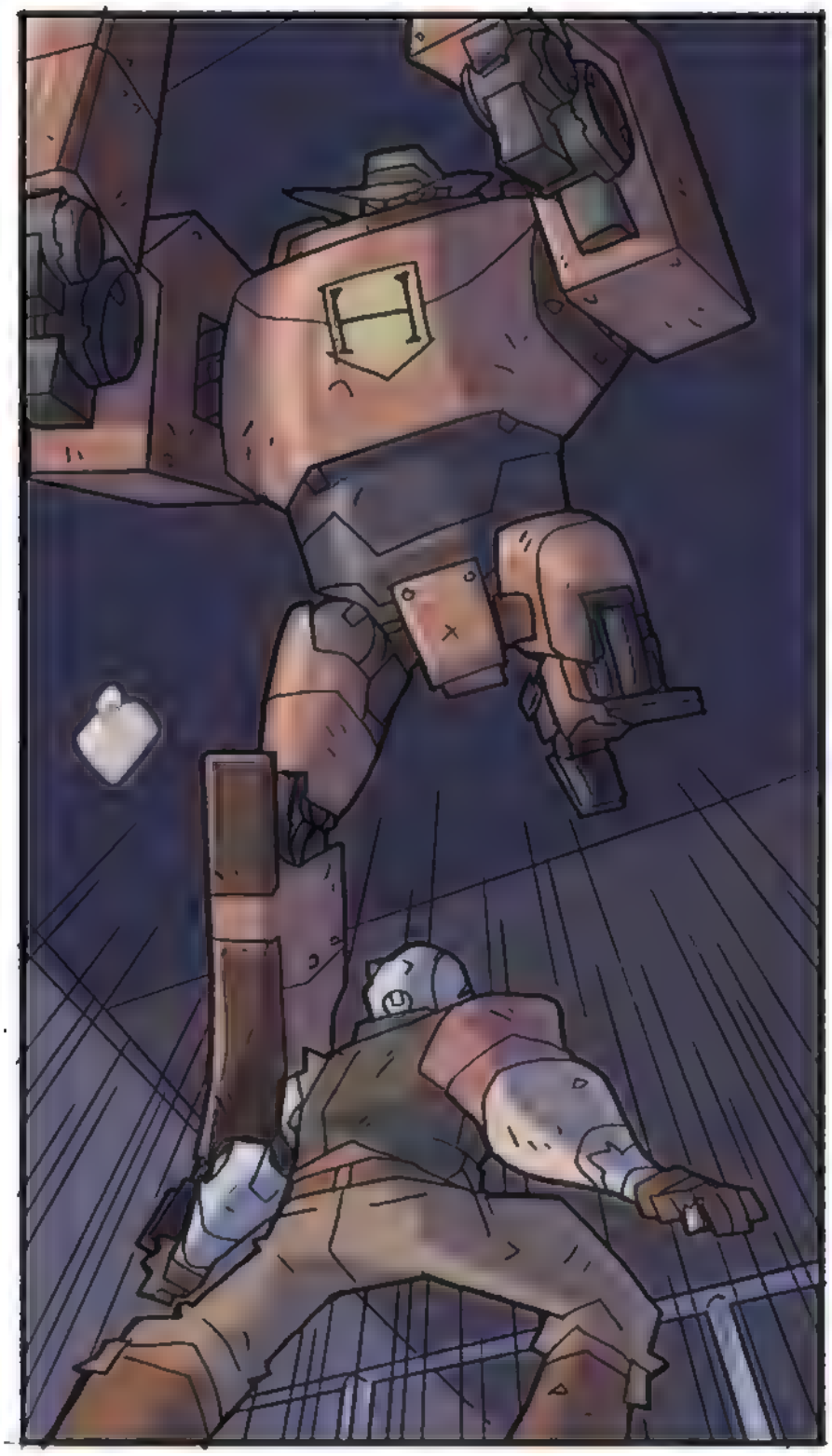
CALDWELL?

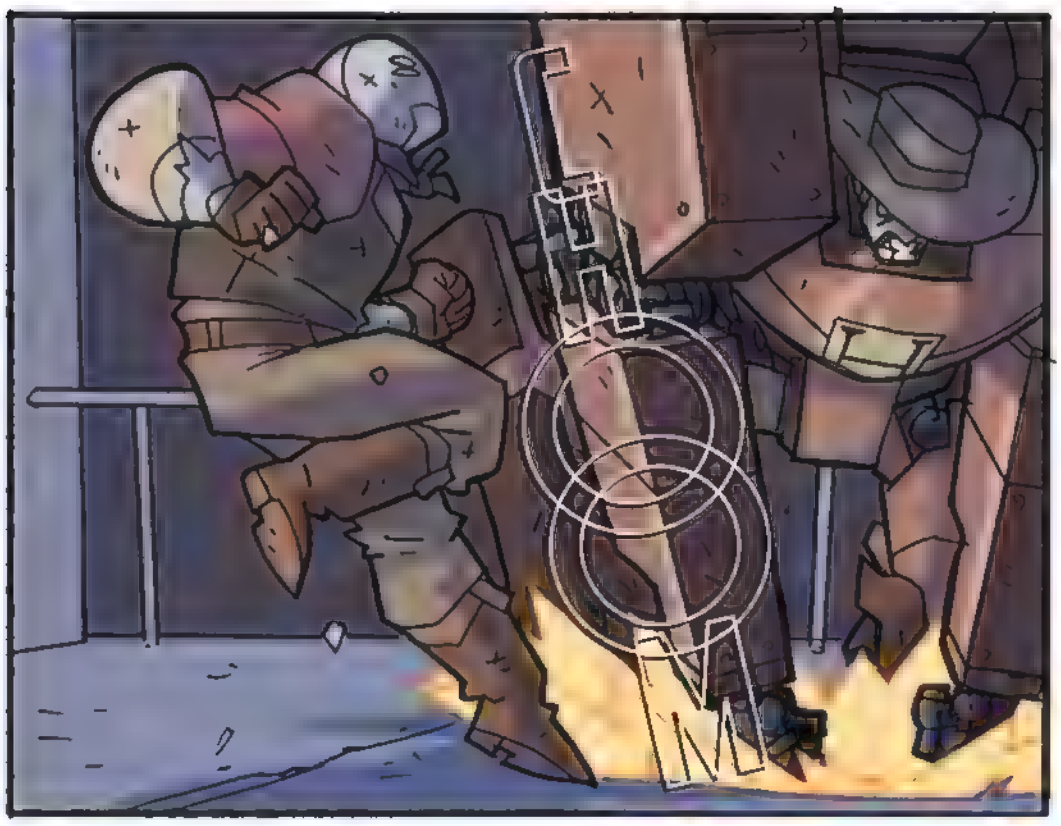
FWAM

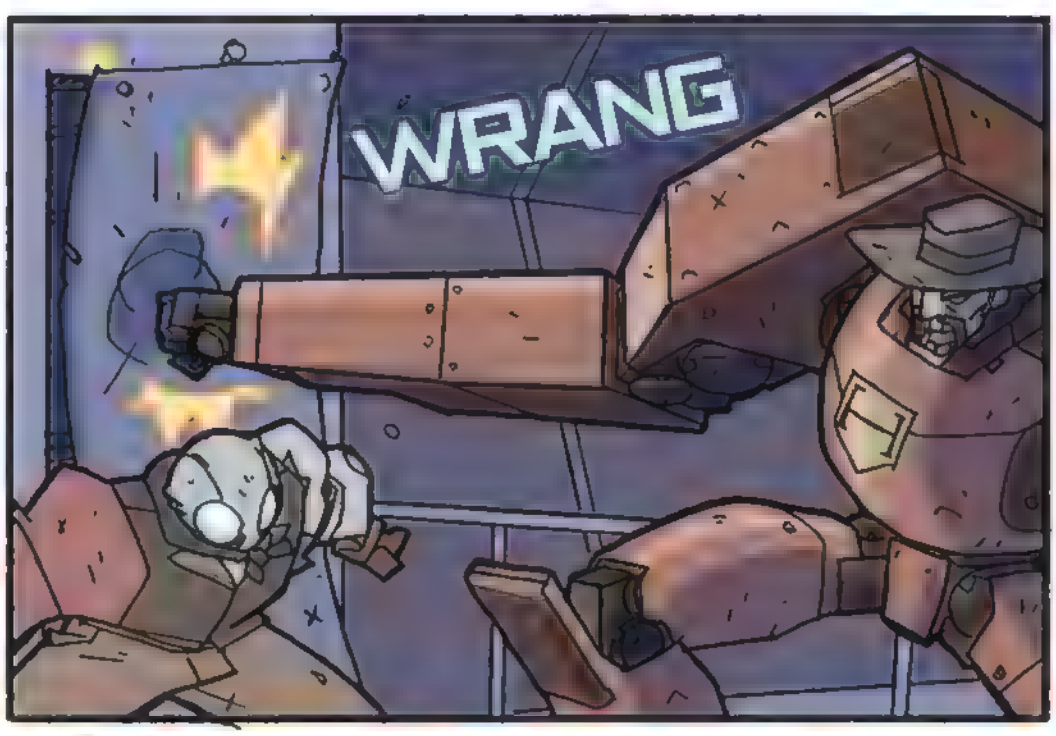
KTUNG

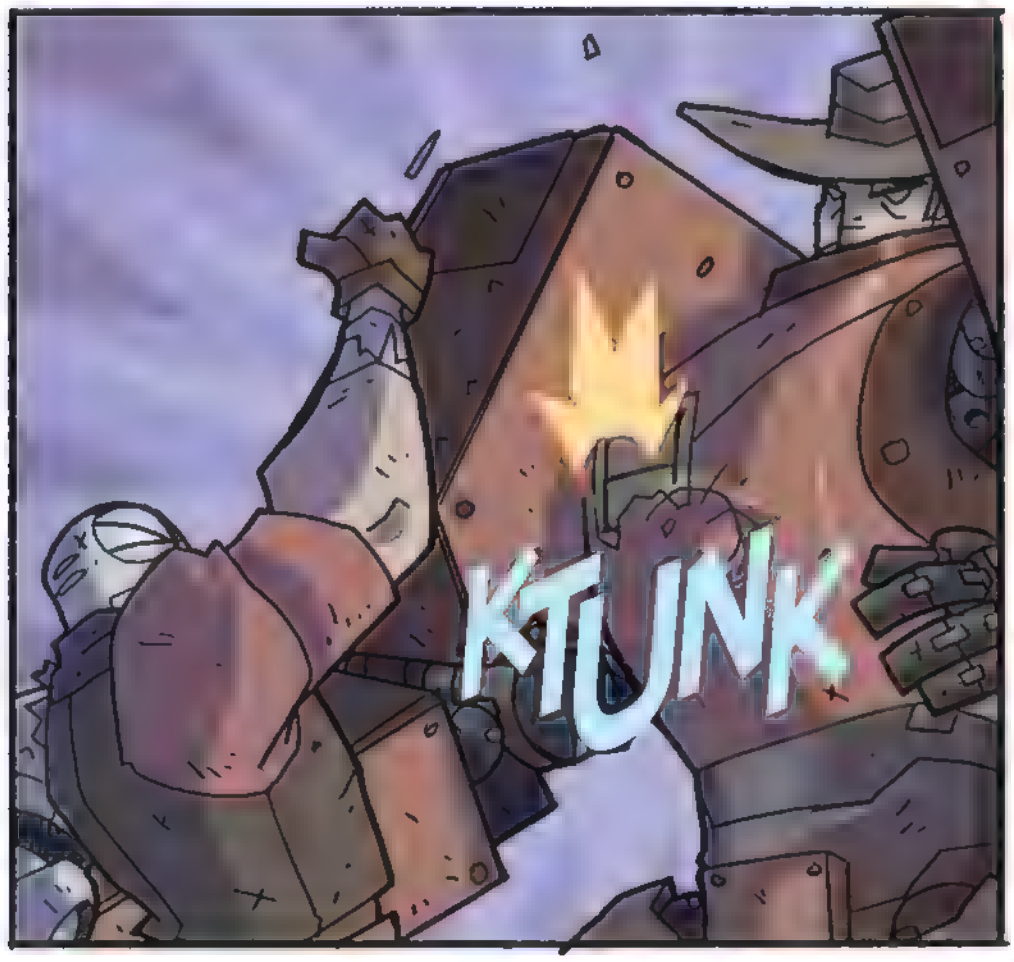
FWAM

WHUMP

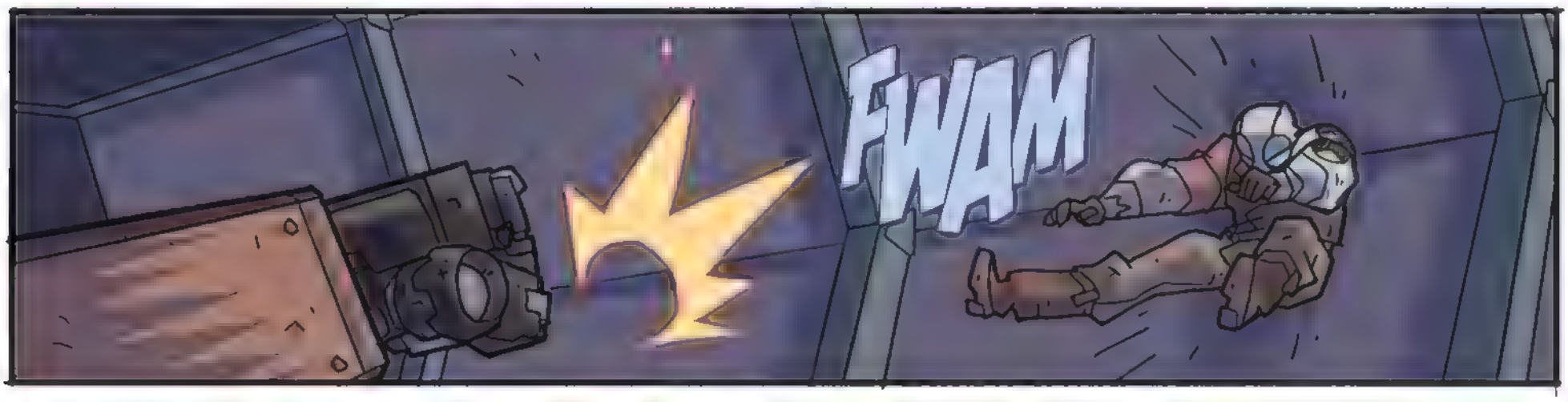





WRANG


KTUNK

WHAM


FWAM

YOU FIRST.

WHAT, RUSH 'EM? THE HELL MAKES YOU THINK I'M DOIN' *THAT* AGAIN?

WHAT ABOUT THAT CHOCTAW INVINCIBILITY CLAUSE?

PART OF THE WAY CHOCTAW DON'T DIE IS BY NOT GETTIN' THEYSELVES KILLED.

HOW MANY BULLETS YOU GOT?

NOWHERE NEAR ENOUGH.

PUTS YOU AHEAD OF ME.

BUT IF WE *BOTH* GO...

...ONE OF US *MIGHT* LAST LONG ENOUGH TO LIGHT UP THE VRILLIUM IN THERE?

YOU DON'T RUN LIKE A JACKRABBIT *RIGHT ON THREE,* I'M SHOOTIN' YOU *FIRST.*

STERN BUT FAIR.

C'MON.

KTONG

HAD ENOUGH?

HRN

WHAM

GUESS NOT.

HRNN

Y'EVER SHUT UP, CHATTERBOX?

JUST PROVIN' ME RIGHT.

WHAM

PSHHH

IT'S A JOKE.

HRNN

PSHHH

BECAUSE YOU DON'T SAY MUCH.

OW, BY THE WAY.

HANG ON, WAIT!

BUTCHER.

BUTCHER CALDWELL.

I KNOW YOU'RE STILL IN THERE. SOMEWHERE.

I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME.

I NEED YOU TO REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE!

CH-CHK-CHAK

SO, DID THAT WORK, OR...?

Y'KNOW WHAT? NEVERMIND. I'LL JUST RUN.

TING
POK
SPWANG
DINK
TANK

WE DOIN' THIS?

COUNT OF THREE.

OR NOT?

WHAT'S IN THERE?

ENGINES.

KLONG

NEWEST AND WORST PLAN!

HRNN

C'MON. SHOOT ME!

HRNN

BOOMBOOMBOOM

KRAK-BOOM

VOOP VOOP VOOP

VOOP VOOP

IT WAS NOT A COMPLEX PLAN.

DESTROY *ALL* EAST-WEST TELEGRAPH LINES AT CARSON CITY.

BURN SAN FRANCISCO. *SIEGE* SACRAMENTO.

ESTABLISH THE NATION OF HELSINGARD.

CONVERT DISSIDENTS INTO AUTOSOLDATS.

REPEL INEVITABLE AMERICAN ATTACKS. *EXPAND* EAST.

COMPLETE *SECOND* WAR ZEPPELIN AND ATTACK ATLANTIC STATES.

CONQUER NORTH AMERICA.

KTHOOOOM

PTOOF

VMMMMMM

HOLD STILL. I GOTCHA.

YEAH. SURE YOU DO.

OKAY. I THINK WE CAN GET OFF THIS THING.

BUT YOU'LL HATE IT.

I THINK HELSINGARD MEANT TO USE THESE CAPSULES TO GET SOLDIERS ON THE GROUND.

WE'RE GONNA USE THEM LIKE LIFEBOATS.

WHAT IF YOU'RE WRONG?

THEN IT'S THE SAME AS WAITING FOR THE SHIP TO EXPLODE OR CRASH WITH US IN IT.

GOT TO BE AN EASIER WAY TO EARN A DOLLAR.

KCHUNK

HRN

OH, COME ON!

HRNN

SHUNK

THEY BUILT THINGS TO **LAST** BACK THEN DIDN'T THEY.

STARTEN

KLAK

BOOM BOOM BOOM

SPOW

TANG

POK

BOOM

I ALREADY KNOW HOW IT ENDS.

YOU DON'T WIN.

KRAK-THOOM

NOW WHAT?

WE DO LIKE WE SAID WE'D DO.

RACHEL, NEVADA
POPULATION 11

YOU BOYS WAS IN A *HELL* OF A STATE WHEN WE FOUND YOU LAST NIGHT.

HE'S RIGHT. YOU NEED MORE REST.

AIN'T NOTHIN' FOR IT.

GOD BLESS THIS HOUSE

YOU *WILL* BE PAID FOR YOUR KINDNESS. I'LL SEE TO IT PERSONAL.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT TIL YOU GET TO WHERE YOU GOIN'. *SAFELY.*

LAS VEGAS STATION

THE 3:10 TO ALAMOSA

DO NOTHING UNLESS YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO

DON'T KNOW *WHAT* I 'SPECTED HIS LAST WISHES TO BE.

WEREN'T THAT THOUGH.

FOR A FEDERAL MARSHAL? 'COURSE THEY'LL HOLD IT.

THIS SOME KIND OF *EVIDENCE?*

APALOOSA POST OFFICE

NIKOLA TESLA c/o COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 01134

NOW WHAT?

NOW WE GO OUR OWN WAYS. DON'T NEVER LOOK BACK.

COLORADO SPRINGS, 1899

TESLA'S COLORADO SPRINGS LABORATORY

WE SHOULD BE OPERATIONAL WITHIN A WEEK.

THAT FAR AHEAD OF SCHEDULE?

THE COLORADO AIR IS GOOD FOR WORK, MR. TESLA.

OUTSIDE

HERE. I'LL SHOW YOU HOW WE SOLVED THE LITTLE PROBLEM OF THE TELESCOPING TRANSMITTER.

ONLY YOU, MR. CZITO, WOULD CONSIDER IT A *LITTLE* PROBLEM.

AS YOU SAY, SIR. MIRACLES ARE NOTHING BUT A LITTLE FORETHOUGHT AND SOME TIME.

HM. WHAT MIRACLES WE WILL WORK IN TIME.

NIKOLA
c/o
COLORAD
COLOR

01

COLORADO SPRINGS, 1904

1956

NIKOLA TESLA
C/O
COLORADO SPRINGS,
COLORADO

01134

1999

NIKOLA TESLA
C/O
COLORADO SPRINGS,
COLORADO

01134

QUARANTINE

BY ORDER OF TASK FORCE ULTRA UNDER S.E.C.U.R.E. ACT OF 2013

QUARANTINE

BY ORDER OF TASK FORCE ULTRA UNDER S.E.C.U.R.E. ACT OF 2013

2014

TESLADYNE
DEEP STORAGE FACILITY

PARKING IN REAR

DIDN'T EXPECT THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE TO BE *SO ABSOLUTELY* NOWHERE.

WHO'D WE GET MAD ENOUGH TO SEND US OUT THIS WAY?

OH, THERE'S NO TELLING. BUT I KNOW *YOU* DID IT.

SHERIFF WALDRIP?

YOU FOUND 'IM.

LAS VEGAS DAILY GAZETTE

GONNA NEED A COUPLE HORSES.

HOW'S THAT?

IMMEDIATELY, IS HOW.

WE'RE WITH SECRET SERVICE DIVISION.

GROOM LAKE

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, GORDON?

I COULDN'T SAY WITHOUT CONJECTURE OF THE HIGHEST ORDER.

THEN BY ALL MEANS, *CONJECT.*

I'M SEEING SUGGESTIONS OF THE VON ZEPPELIN SCHOOL OF AIRSHIP DESIGN.

THE GERMANS HAVE AIRSHIPS IN *OUR* SKIES?

NO, NO. WHATEVER THIS WAS, IT DWARFED ZEPPELIN'S *WILDEST* PROPOSALS.

UNTIL IT CRASHED.

WELL, YES BUT THIS IS MORE THAN A CRASH.

THERE WERE EXPLOSIONS. BEFORE *AND* AFTER IMPACT, I'D GUESS.

WE'D FIND DEBRIS FOR A HUNDRED MILES AROUND IF WE LOOKED.

WE'RE GONNA NEED MORE AGENTS.

JAMES. WE'LL NEED A WHOLE AGENCY.

SECRET SERVICE DIVISION HQ,
WASHINGTON D.C.
ONE MONTH LATER

DIRECTOR JAMES BROOKS

hereby approves appropriation of funds pursuant to Project Daedalus. The Investigation of Groom Lake crash site Icarus; the expansion of Secret Service personnel and facilities to collect and study Icarus technology; the capture of Icarus conspirators, whether foreign or domestic; and the suppression of Icarus technologies is to begin immediately under direction of Agent J. West and Agent A. Gordon.

Director James Brooks

THE REAL HISTORY THAT INFORMED OUR FICTIONAL HISTORY

JOHN HENRY "DOC" HOLLIDAY

Holliday received a classical education and, at age 19, he left his family in Valdosta, Georgia to learn dentistry in Philadelphia. By 21 he was an established dentist back home in Atlanta. A few months later he was diagnosed with tuberculosis and moved to the warmer and drier climate of the Southwest for his health.

There he soon found a knack for gambling. Which was just as well, as there wasn't much profit in being a dentist with a chronic cough. Within a few short years Holliday became one of the most notorious gamblers West of the Mississippi. There was just one problem: being a very good gambler kept Holliday on the wrong side of the law and other gamblers for the rest of his life.

In 1882, Holliday joined the *wildly illegal* Earp Vendetta Ride to avenge the murder of Morgan Earp. Holliday and the Earps killed everyone connected with Morgan's death and then fled to Colorado to escape their warrants. So, other than all the killing, the Earp Vendetta Ride as portrayed in Tombstone is exactly wrong. But damn it looks good!

The Earps continued on, but Holliday would stay in Colorado for the rest of his life. He died of tuberculosis in 1887.

DEPUTY U.S. MARSHAL BASS REEVES

Reeves was born a slave in Arkansas. He escaped from his master during the Civil War and fled to the Indian Territory (modern Oklahoma) where he lived with the Cherokee, Seminole, and Creek Indians.

After the war, Reeves settled in Arkansas. His reputation for having lived among Indians and knowing several of their languages made him an ideal candidate for the Deputy U.S. Marshals patrolling the Indian Territory. He would serve that jurisdiction for thirty-two years.

Reeves became one of the most feared and respected lawmen in American history. He is credited with over 3,000 arrests and only 14 killings, all for self-defense. Reeves was never wounded in the line of duty despite pursuing the most dangerous outlaws across the most hostile territory.

THE KNIGHTS OF THE GOLDEN CIRCLE

A small mid-nineteenth century association with members throughout the United States. Their state goal was to annex a number of Central American and Caribbean territories into the Union as slave states.

The Civil War saw the Knights reorganize their priorities as to match the Confederacy's performance. The Knights of the Golden Circle became The Order of American Knights, and later, The Order of the Sons of Liberty.

These later stage incarnations of the Knights gave up the dream of establishing a permanent slave state across the Americas. They shifted their focus to insurgency within the U.S. to weaken the federal government's ability to wage war culminating with open revolt in the Pacific Northwest to bring an end to the war. The plan was widely talked about within the Knights, but it was never acted upon.

We let the Knights survive beyond the the Civil War in the form of a small sect in the West led by Abraham Caldwell, the father of Ulysses "Butcher" Caldwell. The elder Caldwell had no specific interest in expanding the slave trade or thwarting the federal government, but he was happy to dabble in either to turn a profit.

To avoid violence with rival outlaws, Abraham brokered deals defining territories and profit sharing between the gangs of his region. Soon, these gangs were sharing intelligence, hideouts, and other resources. The idea spread. By the 1870s, most every outlaw west of the Mississippi had at least a tenuous connection to the Caldwells. Thus, these new Knights of the Golden Circle were not only the first organized crime ring in American history, but the ideal secret army for Baron von Helsingard's nascent empire.